

**Saturday Gazette.**

Bloomfield and Montclair, N. J.

W. H. P. LYON, Editor and Proprietor.  
CHAS. M. DAVIN, Associate Editor.

Our PRINCIPAL OFFICE is next door to the Post Office in Bloomfield.

**The Saturday Gazette.**

BLOOMFIELD AND MONTCLAIR.

An independent weekly journal of LITERATURE, EDUCATION, POLITICS, GENERAL NEWS and LOCAL INTERESTS.

All public and local questions, including political and social, sanitary and reformatory, educational and industrial topics will be clearly presented and fully and fairly discussed.

It is intended and expected to make it not only readable and interesting to the general reader, but of special value to citizens of the county and of real importance to every resident of Bloomfield, Montclair and Caldwell.

Nothing will be admitted to its columns that is unworthy of cordial welcome to every family circle.

Bottled Clergymen in the county and all Public School Teachers in the county will receive the paper gratuitously by sending their address.

It should prove a valuable medium for advertisers. Our weekly circulation extends to every part of Essex county, and considerably elsewhere. Subscriptions and ADVERTISEMENTS will be received in Montclair, by E. Madison; in Caldwell, by W. L. Scott; in Newark, by W. H. Winslow, 445 Broad street, and at our office in Bloomfield, or by mail to Wm. P. Lyon, Editor, and Proprietor, Bloomfield, N. J.

**PROPERTY VALUATIONS.****THEY MUST BE RELATIVELY EQUAL.**

In our discussion of this important subject we have studiously avoided all personalities. We have made no reflections upon the Assessors but have several times spoken in terms of confidence and commendation. Our position has been well considered, clearly presented, and logically maintained. Every fact we have stated was based upon knowledge, and we stand ready to prove them.

It is with no little surprise and regret that we notice a communication purporting to be from the Assessor, in which he attempts to weaken the force of our reasoning by citing in general terms from his books, simply a few instances at which the valuations of lands are at an average of \$600 per acre; and he appeals "to an intelligent public to judge if the lands at the above valuations are not fully 40 per cent. of their cash value."

"An intelligent public," including our excellent Assessor himself, will see that this *ex parte* citation does not controvert our position at all. That statement may be true without invalidating our facts or arguments.We do not wonder that our suggestion of a particular classification of dwellings, for convenience of valuation, should strike many minds unfavorably. It was only designed to draw attention to the need of a *fixed system*, details of which could be modified according to the light and judgment that should be concentrated upon it. That particular plan is of no consequence at all.

Our position may be stated again in few words.

1st. The present assessment valuations of properties are not based upon established or just principles, but are irregular, arbitrary and unfair.

We do not claim originality for this position. We only embody in definite form and specific words, what has been known and complained against for several years, and which is now considered past endurance.

2nd. The present method of assessment valuations, virtually discriminates between the rich and the poor, making the small land holder pay a tax, in many instances, twice as great, in proportion, as the large property owner does.

Now, since the Assessor undertakes to say that his books will show so such thing, we shall certainly be excused if, for our own justification, we prove from those books and from indubitable figures, that our "premises," as well as our "conclusions" are abundantly supported by them.

We copy from the Bloomfield Assessor's Book for 1878, without mentioning names, as we are only illustrating principles:

1st. A House and Lot of 3 Acres, cash value \$10,000.

Assessed at 40 per cent..... \$ 4,000.

This may be considered a standard.

2nd. A House and 28 Acres;

Assessed at..... \$14,500.

Deduct for House and 2 acres,

cash value being \$18,750, 40 per cent. on which would be).... \$5,500.

Leaving the 26 acres to be

Assessed at..... \$8,000.

But the cash value of this 26 acres is allowed by competent judges to be at least \$2,000 per acre or \$52,000, 40 per cent. on which would be).... \$20,800.

This, then, ought to be its assessed value, instead of

which it is rated at less than half of that sum! or less than one-sixth of its cash value!

That is not forty per cent.

3rd. A House and 31 acres;

assessed at..... \$11,000.

Deduct for House and 2 acres

(cash value \$16,000, 40 per cent. on which would be).... \$4,400.

Leaving 29 acres to be assed-

ed at..... \$4,800.

But the cash value of this 19 acres is allowed by competent judges to be at least \$1,000 per acre or \$19,000, 40 per cent. on which would be).... \$7,600.

This, then, ought to be its assessed value; instead of which it is rated at a little over one-half that sum! or about one-fourth of its cash value!

4th. A House and 11½ acres;

assessed..... \$13,000.

Deduct for house and 2 acres,

(cash value \$16,000, 40 per cent. of which must be).... 6,400.

Leaving 9½ acres to be assessed at..... \$6,200.

But the cash value of this 9½ acres is allowed by competent judges to be \$31,000, 40 per cent. on which would be).... \$12,400.

This, then, ought to be its assessed value; instead of which it is rated at less than half that sum! or one-fifth of the cash value!

5th. A House and 44 acres;

Assessed..... \$26,400.

Deduct for House and 2 acres

(cash value \$16,000, 40 per cent. on which would be).... 6,400.

Leaving 42 acres to be assessed at..... \$20,000.

But the cash value of this 42 acres is allowed by competent judges to be at least \$44,000, 40 per cent. on which would be).... \$17,600.

This, then, ought to be its assessed value; instead of which it is rated at a little over half that sum, or less than one-quarter of its cash value!

Now we have mentioned only five pieces of property, taken by chance, and what do they show?

The first is assessed according to the adopted basis, and would be satisfactory. It is a sample of a large class. The other four are in different parts of the village, and as samples of other classes, do not seem to be assessed on any particular system, certainly not according to the adopted basis of 40 per cent. of the cash value.

The second is appraised at \$20,500 less than its cash value! and is assessed at \$11,800 less than its fair proportion in comparison with its poorer neighbors!

The third is appraised at \$7,500 less than its cash value! and is assessed at \$3,000 less than its fair proportion with others.

The fourth is appraised at \$16,000 less than its cash value! and is assessed for \$6,000 less than its fair proportion with others!

The fifth is appraised at \$34,000 less than its cash value! and is assessed at \$13,600 less than its fair proportion with others!

We could give many more of the same kind, verifying our proposition that the valuations are not made on any fixed and uniform system, nor the assessments apportioned on just and equitable principles.

In the four instances above given the assessed value is under-rated to the amount of \$34,800, which at 2 per cent. tax would have yielded \$696, and relieved other citizens to that extent. If this be the result in only four cases what would it amount to in the whole town, of some 1,800 or more tax-payers?

How long is this unjust burden to be borne? this inequality of valuations to be practiced in this enlightened and Christian community?

We know the time has now arrived for the Assessors to make their appraisements. It may be thought that they have no time to make new valuations. They are in duty bound to re-value each property every year, and it is no more trouble to do it on correct principles, and by system, and on an equitable basis, than to make arbitrary, irregular and unfair estimates, as the large property owner does.

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Leaving the 26 acres to be

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sideration in committees, and great freedom of discussion in the Council, they have adopted a revision of the Prayer Book which to us seems a real improvement and eminently suitable and worthy of this Reformed Church.

We regretted to notice in the editorial columns of the New York Times (usually the fearless and peerless champion of justice, reform and progress) a carpenter criticism upon some of the most timely and fitting changes effected by this revision of the Book of Common Prayer.

There is manifestly an important work for this Church to do, and we trust they will see to it that they do not "fail of the candlestick of God." May their candlestick continue on forever to be the foundation of a light that shall radiate far and wide and lead many an erring one into the protecting fold, alarming the guilty, raising the fallen, strengthening the weak, comforting the despondent, arousing the careless, encouraging the reformer and directing all to the Divine Master.

To TOM COLLINS.—Who is he? Where has he gone? When will he be here again?

HARNESS.—C. C. Corby always has an extensive variety on hand. There is probably no better place in the county to get a good outfit in this line.

Read his advertisement.

THIEVES.—Another robbery committed this time in Morris neighborhood. Mr. S. J. Potter's carriage house was entered last Sunday night and a splendid robe and fine set of harness taken.

To TEACHERS.—We shall be happy to receive communications for the educational column of our paper from Teachers, Ministers and others. "Experience is the best school master."

We ought to be abundantly supplied with acceptable and useful communications; facts and fancies from the school rooms, conceptions and experiences from the 100 teachers in Essex County who get the GAZETTE weekly. Would be glad sometimes to get a creditable piece from a pupil.

Is there any Dry Goods' window in Newark that deserves more attention for its fine and tasty display of rich and varied goods than Marvin Dodd &amp; Co., 659 Broad Street.

RAILROAD FACILITIES.—We have had very little reason to complain of our Rail Road accommodations. The Delaware Lackawanna and Western Company have generally manifested a disposition to meet the reasonable wants of our towns and travellers on the Bloomfield branch. The trains are frequent enough; the hours for starting are, for the most part, satisfactory, the time made, it is believed might be shortened five minutes, without loss to the company and with real advantage to all who use this road. We think it would insure to the benefit of the company. The conductors are courteous and obliging; they understand their business and attend to it, we should say with fidelity. The Baggage masters and Brakemen have almost invariably won the good opinions of the patrons of the road and deserve commendation.

The Road is kept in good condition and the trains are run with punctuality and safety. To Bloomfielders it is a kind of domestic institution for which they cherish a sort of family affection.

There is one improvement that would add much to the comfort and convenience of the road, namely to make the first train down in the morning a through train without any detention at Newark.

Both the Assessor and the Collector are obliged to take early train (and the number is increasing) who cannot afford to lose ten or fifteen minutes every day at Newark. We would earnestly commend this desire to President Stoen and company and hope they may devise a practical plan to afford this relief at an early date, an accommodation that will be well appreciated.

Report of Road Commissioners on the extension of Union Street ratified, and adopted.

Petitions received for sidewalks on following streets:

1. Fullerton Avenue extension.

2. Bloomfield Avenue from 300 feet east

of Elm Street to the township line.

3. Bloomfield avenue, west side in front

of property of estate of H. H. Lloyd.

4. On old road in front of property of Philip Doremus.

5. On Eagle rock way 350 feet.

All sidewalk petitions were referred to standing committee on sidewalks.

Public meeting to vote tax for sidewalks called for June 2, 1874.

Contract for printing copies of report of the Road Improvement Committee awarded to E. Madison.

Petition received from property owners to open and work Cliff-side avenue.

Clerk directed to ascertain from the Collector if all the assessments on above avenue have been paid.

Town Collector requested to furnish the committee at the first regular meeting of each month a written statement of all his receipts and disbursements for the preceding month.

Bill of Joseph Carson for repair of roads from April 13 to May 9, 1874.

Ordered paid.

Proposals solicited for grading and working of the extension of Walnut Street, and the extension of Gates Avenue according to plans and specifications in Engineer's office.

Parties interested in the widening of that portion of Fullerton Avenue will be heard on May 27.

OBITUARY.

The sudden death of Mr. F. P. Terry has cast a shade of gloom over this community that cannot be dispelled by a passing word, nor yet by studied silence.

On Sunday the 10th inst., Mr. Terry was at church and during the day was well as usual, though a pimple on his face attracted some attention. The next day that indication of the hidden destroyer developed into what the physicians considered Erysipelas, but which was found to be even more venomous—a malignant pestilence, affecting the brain and superinducing drowsiness and resulting fatally in a few hours.

Mr. Terry had resided in Montclair only a little over a year but had secured the esteem of all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. Of modest, unobtrusive manners, of kindly feelings, a generous nature and a benevolent heart, his sympathies were inclined him to respond according to his circumstances by labor, or by suitable services to every worthy call of humanity or of Christianity.

His religion did not evaporate in words, he was a very practical Christian. With the beginning of his own family responsibility he consecrated an altar to his God where he daily found a restful and refreshing peace with his household.

COMMUNICATIONIST.

For the Saturday Gazette.

BELLVILLE.

The beautiful village as its name implies, is again in a state of commotion. The decision given by the Board of Freeholders rejecting the new members elected under the provisions of the new charter has set all the old elements of discontent again in working order. The excitement will now undoubtedly continue unabated, until the Supreme Court shall finally decide whether Bellville is, or is not a city.

Belleville contains a much larger population than any in Bloomfield.

Owing to the unsettled condition of affairs, lots when sold at auction do not bring the price asked for, with great waste, if divided.

For further particulars apply to